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Advancement of women

Letter dated 18 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward information regarding progress in the implementation of Uzbekistan's National Plan of Action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly under item 60 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Annex to the letter dated 18 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Information regarding progress in the implementation of Uzbekistan's National Plan of Action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
1. Absence of a definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention, prohibiting both direct and indirect discrimination in the Constitution and domestic laws. Application of the provisions of the Convention by judicial bodies.	The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan recognizes the universally accepted norms of international law; it thus provides for implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women by all State, territorial and judicial bodies.	The protection of women's rights and freedoms is guaranteed under the Basic Law — the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan (arts. 18, 46, 63, 65). State employment policy is based, in particular, on the following principles: ensuring equal opportunities in the exercise of the right to work and unrestricted choice of employment for all citizens irrespective of gender, age, race, ethnic origin, language, social, financial or official status, attitude to religion, beliefs, membership of public associations and other considerations unrelated to an employee's aptitude for work and performance (Labour Act, 1998). In addition, the Labour Code envisages a number of benefits for women, such as additional leisure time, reduced working hours, and guarantees in the event of termination of an employment contract by the employer. The Education Act provides for equal rights to education for all citizens, irrespective of gender, race, ethnic origin, language, social, financial or official status, attitude to religion, beliefs, or membership of public associations. The text of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women has been translated into the Uzbek language and widely printed; it is distributed free of charge at all seminars, meetings and other events held by State, public and non-governmental organizations to raise awareness of the provisions of the Convention.

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		The monitoring group jointly established by the Women's Committee and the Ombudsman to monitor the implementation of the Convention in the regions prepares an analytical report every year on the basis of its findings, which is then sent to local authorities of the regions for relevant action. Special radio programmes to raise awareness of the provisions of the Convention have been developed in all regions and articles and features published in magazines and newspapers. Parliamentary checks on the implementation of the Convention are periodically conducted by committees of the two chambers of Parliament.
2. The drafting of a bill on equal opportunities for women and men.	Study the issue and make relevant proposals; Regularly monitor the implementation of domestic legislation in the field of women's rights; submit proposals to Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers.	The National Centre for Human Rights has drafted a bill on equal rights and equal opportunities which was discussed at a joint seminar with State and non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians and international organizations. The bill is currently under expert review within the various ministries of the Republic. The Ombudsman has conducted an analysis of the legislation in force in the field of women's rights by means of monitoring studies carried out with the participation of local authorities, self-governing bodies, non-governmental organizations and the information media: • Respect for the rights of mothers, children and low-income families to receive welfare benefits in the Syrdarya region (2001); • Prevention of crime among adolescents in the Fergana region (2001); • Respect for the rights of women entrepreneurs in the Bukhara region; • Ensuring the rights of children to secondary specialized and vocational education in the Khorezm region (2002); • Ensuring the reproductive rights of women in the Dzhizak region (2002); • Rehabilitation of adolescents in the Tashkent region (2003); • Respect for and protection of the rights of paediatric patients in the Samarkand region (2003);

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		• Ensuring the legal protection of the labour rights of citizens in the Navoi region (2003); • Respect for and protection of the rights of paediatric patients in the Samarkand region (2003); • Respect for the rights of patients in medical institutions in the Fergana, Andizhan and Namangan regions (2003); • Respect for the right of access to the courts in the Surkhandarin, Kashkadarin and Tashkent regions and in the city of Tashkent (2004); • Ensuring the rights and legal interests of property owners in the Republic of Uzbekistan (2005-2006). In the second half of 2006, a monitoring study will be carried out on ensuring the labour rights of women in light industrial enterprises in the Fergana Valley. Based on the outcome of these studies, analyses will be prepared and sent for action to the various parliamentary committees, the Cabinet of Ministers, relevant ministries and territorial authorities.
3. The development of special study programmes and the revision of school syllabuses and textbooks with a view to overcoming patriarchal attitudes and patriarchal modes of behaviour towards women.	Develop and introduce special programmes for all types of educational institutions with a view to enhancing women's role in society; On the basis of special programmes in educational institutions, *makhallyas*, enterprises and organizations, organize study courses on a monthly basis to raise legal awareness among women, with the participation of top legal experts and practising lawyers.	Special programmes have been developed and implemented to advocate gender equality and combat gender stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes. Issues such as education and the law and the cultural and educational origins of the legal equality of women and men are also studied as part of the syllabus in culture studies and moral education in higher educational institutions. Over the past two years, more than 12,500 seminars, 1,750 round tables and 1,575 meetings have been held on the above-mentioned issues and 1,423 women's representatives have received information about the following international legal instruments: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Cairo Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Women's rights studies are conducted on a monthly basis in the Republic's *makhallyas* with the participation of top legal experts, political scientists and other specialists.

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		Health studies have been introduced into junior and secondary school syllabuses with the assistance of UNFPA, UNESCO and UNICEF, and colourful visual aids have been developed to promote a healthy lifestyle and prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS.
4. Insufficient media campaigns to combat stereotypes.	At the national and regional levels, organize television and radio programmes and press articles to promote equality between women and men.	Special programmes on human rights are broadcast every week on national television, including programmes on the protection of the rights and interests of women. Weekly educational programmes are also broadcast on the radio. Representatives of non-governmental organizations actively participate in the preparation of such programmes. In the first half of 2006 alone, some 300 news articles and photographic materials relating to gender equality were produced by Uzbekistan's national information agency.
5. Adoption of measures to increase the number of women in decision-making bodies, including temporary special measures; organization of special educational programmes to increase awareness in this area.	Introduce proposals for amendments and additions to the legislation in force with a view to increasing the number of women in decision-making bodies;	Article 22 of the Elections Act has been supplemented by a provision that establishes a 30 per cent quota for female candidates from political parties for election to the bicameral Parliament. At the beginning of 2005, women accounted for 16 per cent and men for 84 per cent of members of the legislature, the executive branch and the judiciary combined. The corresponding figures for the legislative and representative bodies were 15.2 and 84.8 per cent, respectively; for the executive bodies, 3.4 and 96.6 per cent; and for the judicial authorities, 22.7 and 77.3 per cent. At present, women head the Federation of Trade Unions, and also 29 per cent of national trade union associations, 22 per cent of territorial trade union associations, 24 per cent of trade union bodies at the regional, city and district levels and 39 per cent of grass-roots trade union organizations. The number of female teachers in Uzbekistan's higher educational institutions is 7,980 (36 per cent of the total number of lecturers and teaching staff in higher educational institutions nationwide). A total of 86,620 female students are attending higher educational institutions around the country, constituting 39 per cent of the total number of

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		higher educational students nationwide. Of the 447,129 teachers working in general educational institutions, 294,116 (65.7 per cent) are women.
	Create a pool of female staff in all ministries, departments and organizations;	A pool of professional female staff has been created in all ministries, departments and territorial authorities.
	Organize training for the above-mentioned pool of female staff at the Presidential Academy for the Development of State and Society, the Business Academy and other educational institutions with a view to enhancing their knowledge of politics, law and economics;	The number of female students attending the Presidential Academy for the Development of State and Society, the Business Academy and other educational institutions has increased. During the period 2001-2006, 38 women graduated from the Presidential Academy for the Development of State and Society and 11 from the Business Academy; since graduation they have been working in managerial positions in various fields. Between September and November 2005, 197 female managers upgraded their qualifications at the Presidential Academy for the Development of State and Society.
	Organize a series of seminars and educational activities in order to publicize the experience of prominent women and their achievements in politics, business and other areas;	The Women's Committee, in collaboration with other public organizations, has held more than 3,000 seminars to discuss ways to increase women's participation.
	Incorporate information on prominent women in the second edition of the Women's Encyclopedia.	The second edition of the Women's Encyclopedia has been published, containing information on prominent women.
6. Attainment of equality between men and women in all areas, giving women ownership of their rights.	Implement State programmes to strengthen the role of women in the development of State and society;	In all regions, districts, cities and towns of Uzbekistan, the following State programmes are under implementation: – Programme on priority actions to increase health awareness in the family and to improve the health of women and children (2002-2007); – Programme of organizational and promotional measures to ensure the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 3434 of 25 May 2004 on additional measures to support the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan; – Mother and child screening programme;

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		— Local employment programmes for women for 2005-2007.
		Under these programmes, measures are being implemented to enhance the role of women in society, increase their participation in all areas of life, ensure that they have opportunities for employment, improve their health and prevent crime and suicide among them.
		The implementation of these measures is reviewed quarterly at meetings of the Standing Committee headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
	Develop promotional materials and pamphlets on women's rights.	The Women's Committee, in collaboration with the Institute for monitoring legislation in force, has developed a "Legal Handbook", a practical guide entitled "Gender on the agenda", "Women's rights — human rights", "The Voices of Central Asian Women", teaching aids on gender issues for higher educational institutions and other materials.
	Hold seminars, meetings and talks on the subjects of "Women and the law", "One law for all" and "Do you know your rights?" in educational institutions, companies, other institutions and *makhallyas*;	In all labour collectives, educational institutions and *makhallyas*, round-table meetings, talks and training sessions are held to expand the legal and general knowledge of women and girls. More than 4,800 seminars and training sessions on human rights and gender issues have been held under the National Programme of Action on Human Rights. Round-table meetings and annual national review conferences are also held to take stock of the preceding year.
	Organize special features in women's magazines and newspapers and on the television and radio to help enhance legal awareness among women.	The national information media at all levels cover issues that help to increase the legal literacy and legal awareness of women. Radio programmes providing information on women's rights are broadcast weekly.
7. Formulation of a comprehensive and integrated gender policy.	Review the practical activities undertaken by ministries, departments and legal and territorial bodies to achieve gender equality, and formulate of concrete recommendations on ways to strengthen those activities;	One of the mechanisms for monitoring compliance with civil rights is the conduct of surveys among different sectors of the population, the results of which are used to assess the activities of territorial bodies to achieve gender equality and draw up recommendations and proposals for the strengthening of gender equality. Seminars on gender issues are regularly organized by all relevant bodies in collaboration with international organizations; a gender and development office has

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		been set up by a non-governmental organization to train specialists in these issues for ministries and departments; and a statistical report entitled "Women and men of Uzbekistan" is published every year.
	Conduct a gender analysis of national laws in force, and draft proposals for their improvement.	A gender analysis of the Labour Code and the Family Code has been carried out with the participation of women's non-governmental organizations, and proposals have been drawn up for the improvement of those instruments. Since 1998, the Institute for monitoring legislation in force has been carrying out gender analyses of existing and newly adopted national laws.
8. Review of the mandate of existing national mechanisms with a view to the effective gender mainstreaming of their policies and programmes.	Develop and implement measures to enhance the role of women in society, maintain gender balance in all sectors of society, increase legal awareness among women and ensure their participation in elections to representative bodies at all levels;	Since 1998, State programmes have been adopted each year to strengthen the role of women in the family and in society, enhance their legal and economic knowledge and ensure their social welfare. Conferences on ways to strengthen the decision-making role of women are held twice a year. Additional budget funds are allocated for the implementation of all State programmes.
	Organize a round table, with the participation of all bodies concerned with women's issues, on ways to enhance their work on the basis of the recommendations of CEDAW.	
9. Strengthening of existing national mechanisms concerned with women's issues at all levels.	Organize regular seminars to raise awareness among staff holding positions of responsibility in organizations concerned with women's issues on ways of ensuring gender equality in society and of raising the status of women.	In Uzbekistan, a national mechanism has been established, and is being strengthened every year, to improve the status of women in the legislature and the executive branch. Issues relating to female political leadership are developed and explored. Since the year 2000, representatives of non-governmental organizations have met with parliamentarians, government officials and representatives of political parties every three months to discuss priority areas of the Programme of Action, one of which is enhancement of the role of women in society. Within the first six months of 2006 alone, two international conferences on female political leadership and two forums of

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		women's non-governmental organizations were held in Uzbekistan.
10. Protection of women against violence, including domestic violence; Organization of training activities to raise awareness among women of all forms of violence.	Conduct wide-ranging activities to raise awareness among women with regard to benefits available to them under the Civil Code, the Labour Code and other laws; Develop popular resources and pamphlets on those subjects; Organize talks in the *makhallyas* on the subject of the responsibilities of men and women towards the family, and undertake publicity work to raise awareness of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;	Comprehensive efforts are being undertaken in Uzbekistan to prevent domestic violence. This work is being carried out by *makhallya* and women's committees, prevention officers serving in police departments and other organizations. During the first half of 2006, prevention officers alone handled 58,880 complaints, 13,756 of which related to family and domestic issues. The above-mentioned bodies hold meetings (55,000 meetings during the first six months of 2006) with the participation of the general public to address issues relating to respect for women's rights. During the meetings, the provisions of the Family Code and the Criminal Code are discussed extensively, and there is a great deal of focus on the formation among men of a responsible attitude towards the family. At present, 20,393 domestic violence offenders are registered with police departments, and are worked with individually. During the same period, 7 social rehabilitation centres and 25 crisis centres and family welfare centres were opened, all of which are supported by the State. Training is being provided under special programmes to six target groups: *khokimiyat* employees, law enforcement officers, leaders of the *Makhallya* and of the youth movement "Kamolot", religious leaders and the information media.
11. Organization of training on gender issues for all officials, law enforcement officers, *khokimiyat* officials and *makhallya* members.	Conduct training in gender issues for law enforcement officers and officials of *khokimiyats* and self-governing bodies; Organize broadcasts on national and local television and radio concerning violence against women and measures to prevent it.	All of the aforementioned television and radio programmes on women's rights address issues relating to the prevention of domestic violence.

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12. Lack of information on and policies to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls.	Systematically monitor cases of trafficking in women and girls and submit reports on the issue every three months to the Cabinet of Ministers.	In 2003, a State commission on the prevention of trafficking in persons was established comprising representatives of State, law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations. A national plan of action to prevent trafficking in persons has been prepared and adopted.
13. Criminal prosecution of persons engaging in trafficking in women, and adoption of measures necessary to prevent trafficking.	Ensure criminal prosecution of persons engaged in trafficking in persons, in accordance with the established procedure.	Specialized units have been set up in criminal investigation and crime prevention departments to combat and prevent offences involving illegal exploitation of and trafficking in persons. During the first half of 2006, 135 offences were recorded under article 135 of the Criminal Code, and 107 persons were identified as perpetrators (in 2005, 119 such offences were committed, and 87 persons were identified as perpetrators). In order to prevent offences involving illegal exploitation of and trafficking in persons, large-scale activities are being undertaken to raise public awareness. Special focus is given to persons in at-risk groups who most commonly fall victim to such crimes. At all stages of the preparation of documents authorizing travel abroad, and at customs points and border crossing points, all the law enforcement agencies concerned work to detect women who are potential victims of trafficking. Persons leaving the country are informed of the penalties applicable in cases of violation of the laws of other countries, particularly those relating to illegal migration for the purpose of employment and engagement in illicit activities. The activities of travel agencies which arrange travel abroad for young people are monitored by police departments. All State authorities and non-governmental organizations are involved in efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

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14. Adoption of urgent measures to prevent a decline in the number of women who receive higher education.	Formulate and implement measures to encourage talented girls and foster interest in learning among girls in general; Organize campaigns to provide young rural girls with information on the sciences, prominent female scientists and talented young women and their achievements; Strengthen the activities of branches of the Olima Association of Women Scientists.	Women account for 39 per cent of the students in higher educational institutions. Targeted activities are being carried out to increase the number of women attending Uzbekistan's higher educational institutions, and in particular to improve the legal and general knowledge of girls, especially those from rural areas. In order to ensure that girls have access to higher education, on 28 February 2006 the legislative chamber of Parliament, along with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and the Women's Committee, organized a workshop on the topic, "Social welfare for students with families". The State Zulfiya Prize was established by presidential decree to encourage particularly talented girls, and is awarded each year on the eve of International Women's Day (8 March). The number of women in the sciences is increasing; women currently account for 45.3 per cent of post-graduate students and 37.1 per cent of doctoral students. Women's organizations have been mobilized to encourage girls to join interest groups, and seminars are being held on gender equality and equal opportunities in education.
15. Adoption and implementation of measures to prevent unemployment among women and discrimination in the hiring, training, promotion and dismissal of women.	Develop special programmes to provide employment for women, while respecting women's labour rights.	By a decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of 29 June 2004, a special programme of measures was approved to implement the presidential decree of 25 May 2004 on additional measures to support the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. One section of the programme is devoted to providing employment and ensuring women's social and labour rights, with State budgetary funding providing no less than 217,600 unemployed women each year with jobs. In accordance with the above-mentioned State programme, territorial employment programmes for women have been developed and implemented since 2005. In the first half of 2006, 137,800 jobs for women were created in Uzbekistan, representing 63 per cent of annual recruitment. Efforts are under way with respect to microcredit and credit allocation to female entrepreneurs. In seven of the Republic's regions, credit unions have

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		been established, currently serving more than 6,000 members.
	Collect data on female unemployment disaggregated by region, city and district, and implement regional programmes to provide jobs to unemployed women, based on each region's capacities;	Local women's committees along with regional mechanisms under the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare have created a database of women seeking employment, and training-to-work programmes have been developed for such women. This training also aims to raise women's legal awareness and explain State benefits, and the provisions of the Labour Code and other laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
	Ensure implementation of the Labour Code in every enterprise and organization that employs women. Raise awareness of the benefits available to women;	No cases of discrimination against women were identified by State labour inspectors during routine checks on the Republic's enterprises and organizations, covering 542 enterprises and organizations, in the first half of 2006. In each enterprise or organization where checks are carried out, efforts are made to raise awareness of the benefits available to women under the labour legislation.
		Last year, more than 600,000 women received supplementary leave, 20,000 women received one to two months' supplementary leave at their employers' expense in addition to the maternity leave provided for by law, and 200,000 women with large families who had pre-school children were granted a shorter workday and given financial support. More than 40,000 women on maternity leave to care for children between two and three years old receive financial support (State benefits are payable until the child reaches its second birthday), and all working women with children under three years old are entitled to a shorter work day.
		Seminars to raise the legal awareness of workers are held in all workplaces thanks to the efforts of trade unionists, management and non-governmental organizations.
	Carry out preparations to accede to the ILO Conventions concerning Night Work of Women Employed in Industry, and Employment of Women on Underground Work in Mines of all Kinds and the ILO	Preparations have been made to accede to the Night Work (Women) Convention, the Underground Work (Women) Convention and the Recommendation concerning the Employment of Women with Family Responsibilities. Coordination activities are under way between relevant ministries and departments, after which proposals will be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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	Recommendation concerning the Employment of Women with Family Responsibilities.	Under article 225 of the Labour Code, which came into force on 1 April 1996, the employment of women to perform underground work is prohibited, with the exception of certain types of underground work (non-manual work or cleaning and maintenance work).
16. Conducting regular surveys of legislation with a view to reducing obstacles for women in the labour market.	Organize a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of legislation and regulations as well as government decisions relating to women's work, and formulate recommendations.	In 2004, an analysis was made of compliance with legislation in the field of labour relations and recommendations were formulated for enhancing the status of women. In the second half of 2006, regional representatives of the Ombudsman will monitor observance of women's rights to supplementary guarantees and benefits under the labour legislation.
17. Creation of special training and retraining programmes for different groups of unemployed women.	Adopt measures to train, retrain and upgrade the skills of unemployed women, based on labour market requirements; Enable businesswomen to participate in the work of international symposia and conferences, as well as exhibitions and fairs.	The Centre for Market Infrastructure Development under Uzbekistan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry organizes special courses for women on an ongoing basis, such as "Start Your Own Business" and "Understanding Business". Last year, 350 women received training. The Centre has branches in seven of the Republic's regions and in 2005, 1,528 entrepreneurs received training, including 611 women; in 2006, 1,029 entrepreneurs are to receive training, including 476 women. With a view to encouraging the activities of the Republic's entrepreneurs and at the initiative of the President of the Republic, a competition known as "*Tashabbus*" is held each year with the active participation of women. In 2006, 13 of the 41 participants in this national competition were women. Female entrepreneurs also upgrade their skills in other countries.
18. Collection of comprehensive, gender-disaggregated data on the economic sector.	Collect comprehensive data on women's employment in all sectors and, on that basis, organize employment-generating activities for women tailored to opportunities in the labour market.	An analysis has been made of women's employment in all sectors. In 2004, some 4,356,300 women and 5,554,300 men were employed in the national economy (44 per cent and 56 per cent respectively). Women are, on the whole, less economically active than men: 63.2 per cent compared to 78.5 per cent. Traditional fields of work for women include health, education, culture, the arts, science and scientific support services (in which the proportion of women is 73 to 75 per cent).

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			Over the past two years, regional programmes on generating employment for women have aimed to provide work for unemployed women (217,600 jobs per year), with a particular focus on setting up small and medium-sized businesses.
19.	Improvement of women's reproductive health	Ensure the attainment of the goals set out in the State programmes "For a Healthy Generation" and "Mother and Child". Develop and implement a State programme for enhancing reproductive health and a culture of health in young families, and among girls and women;	The following government decisions are being implemented by the joint efforts of relevant State bodies and public organizations: – Ordinance No. 242 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 5 July 2002 on measures to achieve the priorities for enhancing a culture of health in the family and to improve women's health, childbirth and the raising of healthy children; – Ordinance No. 32 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 25 January 2002 on additional measures to improve the health of women and the younger generation; – Ordinance No. 515 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 2 November 2004 on the Asian Development Bank's project for improvement of the health of women and children; – Ordinance No. 365 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 25 August 2002 approving the statute on premarital medical check-ups for individuals entering marriage; – Ordinance No. 153 of the Cabinet of Ministers of 11 August 2005 on measures to implement the national programme for the fortification of flour; – Strategic programme to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS for 2003-2006. Regional, district and municipal programmes are being implemented on the basis of the above-mentioned programmes. The implementation of the State programmes to enhance the health of women and children is coordinated by a government commission headed by the deputy Prime Minister responsible for health. Thanks to efforts to improve reproductive health, the birth rate was 20.4 per 1,000 in 2005 compared to 34.5 per 1,000 in 1991. The maternal death rate decreased from 34.1 per 100,000 live births in 2001 to 30.8 in 2005.

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		The proportion of children born at an interval of less than one year dropped from 0.3 per cent in 2001 to 0 per cent in 2005, and the proportion born less than two years apart fell from 7.1 per cent to 5.7 per cent respectively; inter-birth intervals of more than two years increased from 92.4 per cent to 94.3 per cent (the number of women giving birth for the first time increased from 34.9 per cent in 2001 to 39.7 per cent in 2005).
	Raise awareness at the local level among women, men and young people of how to form a healthy family and improve reproductive health;	All State and public organizations carry out awareness-raising activities at the local level on forming a healthy family and protecting reproductive rights and reproductive health. In the first six months of 2006 alone, more than 23,000 seminars, meetings and talks have been held on this issue. Medical/social home-visiting initiatives have been organized to provide diagnoses, treatment and social assistance to inhabitants of the Republic's remoter districts. In the first six months of 2006, medical and social home-visiting teams in more than 2,000 of the Republic's *makhallyas* studied the social situation of families and the state of health of the population, especially of women and children.
	Develop scientifically based recommendations for measures to be implemented by employers to protect mothers-to-be from occupational hazards and to prevent such hazards.	A comprehensive programme of structural, technical and health and hygiene measures to improve working conditions for women has been drafted and is being implemented. Women taking up a job in unfavourable working conditions are offered a medical check-up free of charge. All working women undergo medical check-ups and, where necessary, rehabilitative treatment is recommended for women experiencing health problems. The sanitary regulations on maximum permissible loads for women have been revised and a list of occupations with unfavourable working conditions for which the use of female labour is either partially or wholly prohibited has been approved by a government decision. Agencies of the health and epidemiological service conduct regular health and safety reviews of women's working conditions by means of laboratory research and instrument readings and monitor compliance with health and safety norms and regulations and other instruments.

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20. Improvement of family-planning policy. Implementation of measures to prevent unwanted pregnancies and ensure access to modern forms of contraception.	Strengthen the effectiveness of public awareness-raising activities on ways of preventing unwanted pregnancies, the importance of birth-spacing and the harmful consequences of abortion.	The Ministry of Health, together with State and non-governmental organizations, conducts comprehensive public awareness-raising activities on preventing unwanted pregnancies and ensuring proper birth-spacing and holds meetings on this issue; as a result, childhood and maternity indicators are showing an improvement. With a view to improving the health of women of childbearing age, preventing unwanted pregnancies and promoting birth spacing, all types of contraceptives are provided to women free of charge by the Government. This issue is discussed on a quarterly basis at meetings of the standing governmental commission on priorities for enhancing a culture of health in the family and improving the health of women and children.
	Organize regular meetings between health workers and women of childbearing age in women's clinics and *makhallyas* on reproductive health issues and the use of modern means of contraception.	In all women's clinics and other health centres, with the participation of health workers, public organizations and charities, talks are held on modern means of contraception, where to obtain them and how to use them.
21. Advocating a healthy lifestyle for women (combating the incidence of smoking among women).	Organize special talks, meetings and panel discussions on maintaining a healthy lifestyle; Raise awareness of the impact on women's health of alcohol, tobacco and narcotic drugs.	The Health Institute, which has branches in all regions of the Republic, with the participation of *makhallya* activists, women's committees, youth organizations and other non-governmental organizations — systematically works to raise women's awareness of the following topics in order to advocate a healthy lifestyle: prevention of early marriages and marriages between relatives; early and late pregnancy; complications experienced by women who have multiple and frequent pregnancies; the optimal interval between births; prevention of unwanted pregnancies; modern methods of contraception; prevention of iodine deficiency and anaemia; advantages of breast-feeding.

Comments and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	*Measures to implement the Committee's recommendations*	*Progress and status of implementation of the measures identified*
		Booklets, brochures, leaflets and videos have been produced to advocate a healthy lifestyle. Medical and social home-visiting teams work in all regions to raise public awareness and advocate a healthy lifestyle (through campaigns, conferences, talks and meetings).
22. Organization of sex education classes in the Republic's schools.	Provide young people with moral, psychological, physical and medical training to prepare them for family life, formulate a series of recommendations and develop teaching aids on the subject; Organize talks in schools with adolescents on the topics: development of the body in adolescence, and, basic hygiene for girls and boys.	All these issues are covered in school syllabuses and are presented to children and adolescents by health specialists as follows: – First to fourth year of school: health lessons; – Fifth to ninth year: the rudiments of health; – Fifth to seventh year: adolescence; – Tenth to eleventh year: the foundations of family health. A series of booklets, videos and educational aids are developed each year with State and private funding and distributed free of charge to schoolchildren, students, young wives and young mothers. All civil registration offices hold "Young Family" classes for young people wishing to start a family. The "Soglom Avlod Uchun" foundation is responsible for implementing the "Adolescence" programme in all the Republic's general educational institutions, reaching 36,000 adolescents in 2006.
23. Developing and implementing environmental measures aimed at protecting the health of women and children.	Develop and implement a range of measures to improve the health of women and children.	Wide-ranging programmes entitled "Women and the Environment" and "Children, the Environment and Health" aimed at improving the environment and thereby protecting the health of women and children have been developed and are being implemented by the "Ekosan" foundation and other relevant organizations. In the framework of Environment and Health Days, a range of nature-conservation activities and wide-scale awareness-raising initiatives are carried out on issues of the environment and the protection of the health of women and children. In view of the worsening situation arising from the Aral Sea drought, "Ekosan" "health trains" are being dispatched to districts experiencing unfavourable environmental conditions. These mobile out-patient clinics transport humanitarian

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		supplies and their teams of highly qualified specialists carry out comprehensive screening in fully equipped medical offices on the trains and provide medical check-ups to inhabitants of remote regions. In 2006, the health trains provided humanitarian assistance to a total of 600 million sum to various regions; 70 per cent of the population screened were women and children.
24. Prevention of suicide among women.	Organize a survey on low-income families in the Republic's regions, conduct individualized awareness-raising activities; Provide courses for women in *makhallyas* to raise their legal awareness; Help unemployed women find work.	At meetings of the Government commission on the implementation of presidential decree No. 3434 of 25 May 2004 on additional measures to support the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the work of the regional women's committees with at-risk families and women in crisis is discussed on a quarterly basis, as are the activities of law-enforcement and health agencies in this domain. The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan coordinates the work of women's non-governmental organizations and existing crisis centres dealing with this issue.
25. Adoption of measures to eliminate polygamy.	With a view to preventing cases of polygamy among men: raise public awareness of the provisions of the Family and Criminal Codes; strengthen activities to develop men's sense of responsibility towards the family; Use the information media to raise public awareness of the negative consequences of polygamy.	Punishment for polygamy is provided for in article 126 of the Criminal Code. However, in the first half of 2006, 22 cases of polygamy were registered. At all seminars aimed at raising legal awareness, the relevant legislative provisions are explained. (There have been more than 6,000 such seminars held in the Republic over the past two years.) Issues of family responsibility are given broad coverage in television and radio programmes, newspapers and magazines.
26. Introduction of mechanisms to address women's mental health problems.	Establish "crisis centres" for the social, psychological and legal rehabilitation of women and adolescents under the auspices of the *Oila* (Family) centre and its regional departments.	Crisis centres have been established in all regions to provide the necessary assistance to women and adolescents. Women receive legal and psychological assistance and health checks as and when required. By a presidential decree of 2004, new posts of consultants on religious, spiritual and moral education were introduced in self-government bodies. These consultatnts are

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		responsible for carrying out work with low-income families, women in difficult circumstances, women offenders with unsatisfactory lifestyles, etc.
27. Adoption of measures to eliminate early marriages.	Conduct awareness-raising activities among parents and young people on the negative consequences of early marriages;	Relevant State, public and non-governmental organizations carry out work to promote a healthy lifestyle, covering issues relating to the prevention of early marriages. In addition, these topics are discussed quarterly at meetings of the Standing Committee of the Cabinet of Ministers on priorities in enhancing a culture of health in families and improving the health of women and children. In recent years, the number of early marriages has shown a decreasing trend (with 70 such marriages in 2004, compared to 58 in 2005).
	Organize a quarterly appraisal of ongiong measures in cooperation with relevant organizations; develop and implement further initiatives on this issue.	A bill to raise the marriageable age of girls to 18 years is currently before the Legislative Chamber of Parliament.
28. Development of special measures to ensure the social welfare of rural women.	Study the living and working conditions of rural women and develop social programmes to improve those conditions;	Local employment-generating programmes for women focus first and foremost on the interests of rural women. Small businesses are being established for such women and home-based work is organized for women with children.
	Adopt measures for the promotion of small and medium-sized businesses among rural women;	Women wishing to set up their own businesses are invited to special training programmes at the centre for the development of market infrastructure, the association of businesswomen and other such organizations. In addition, by special presidential decree (No. 308 of 2006), low-income families with children have, since 2006, been allocated one head of livestock (some 25,000 families have received livestock). These families are given loans to enable them to develop their livestock-rearing businesses, and work-books are issued to family members.
	Enhance medical and social home-visiting initiatives in rural areas;	Under a programme of medical and social home-visiting, health centres provide full coverage of the consultation and treatment needs of women and children in rural areas.
	Organize seminars in each region on the topic "Women and business";	The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, together with other public organizations, holds seminars for village women on various topics with a view to enhancing their level of participation and ensuring their social welfare.

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	Ensure adequate leisure facilities for women and organize sports and fitness activities.	District (town), regional and national sports competitions are organized on an annual basis, with ever-increasing participation of village girls and women. Currently, some 7 million women actively participate in national sports events. Construction and reconstruction of sports facilities is under way. In each of the Republic's 10,000 *makhallyas*, sports facilities have been established for family use.